



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 09/07/2008

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Francis Callahan, Frances Cameron, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, David Gillman, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci.

Facilitator: Jacob Friis **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, Wednesday, Nov. 12, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

- **Town Day**, Saturday, September 20: We have the boards with pictures of the Rt.2 project for display and a number of handouts.
 - **Endangered sedge:** Teresa DeBenedictis (DPW) is looking for a botanist to document where it grows around the pond (necessary to get permission for weed treatment next spring). There will be an information sheet with a picture of it for distribution at Town day.
 - **Phragmites:** Brad, who lives next to the old boat ramp at Kelwyn Manor Park, noted that it is expanding on his property and elsewhere around the pond. It can be controlled by "Rodeo" applied at the right time, but that needs Con Com approval. Steve questioned whether anyone has information on how much it has spread, e.g. in the last ten years. It tends to crowd out cattails, but a small cattail patch has persisted for decades next to the little beach in Kelwyn Manor Park. One fact in favor of phragmites is that it provides habitat for the flocks of red-winged blackbirds at the pond.
 - **Management plan:** Should one be developed for Spy Pond? The Open Space Committee has raised the same question. The OSC has done management plans for various Arlington parks, etc. in a standardized format. Elizabeth, a member of the OSC, has started drafting one for Spy Pond in the same format and will e-mail it to the Spy Pond Committee when the draft is done.
 - In order to develop a management plan, we need to decide what we want for the pond – e.g. have it as natural as possible or try to improve it to fishable and swimmable status. Get public input? The Town has adopted **goals** for Spy Pond (see below); the first step should be to review these.
- It was recommended that management plans should include a section on invasives and what can be done about them, or a separate "awareness piece" should be developed.
- **Sandbar:** No news yet. Jane will call Clarissa about sending the letter to MassHighway that was drafted a while ago.

SPY POND GOALS (Adopted by Town Meeting in 1998)

- **Water Quality and Control:** To reduce the effects of urban runoff to control pollution, weeds, and algae, and to reduce shoreline erosion, in an ecologically sensitive manner.
- **Public Use and Access:** To maintain and improve existing public access, and review the possibilities for enhancing public access and recreation, while ensuring respect for private property.
- **Flora and Fauna:** To promote a healthy diversity of plants and wildlife.
- **Public Awareness:** To create public awareness and focus the attention of government on the natural, economic, and cultural values of Spy Pond.